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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,432	12/23/2003	Kaoru Yamaki	0425-1101P	7534
2292 7590 03/15/2007 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			EXAMINER MCNELIS, KATHLEEN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1742	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		03/15/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 03/15/2007.

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mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/743,432

Applicant(s)

YAMAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Kathleen A. McNelis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claims Status

Claims 20 and 21 remain for examination wherein claim 20 is amended.

Acknowledgement of RCE

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.115, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/16/2007 has been entered.

Status of Previous Rejections

The following rejections are withdrawn in view of amendments to the claims:

- Claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and
- Claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukabori et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,849,062) in view of Morey (U.S. Pat. No. 4,362,276).

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukabori et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,849,062) in view of Morey (U.S. Pat. No. 4,362,276) and WO 99/16641 (based on U.S. Pat. Family member Fukabori et al. 6,878,352).

Fukabori et al. '062 discloses a method for removal and treatment of gas generating air bag inflators from vehicles wherein the metallic material is recovered by melting (abstract). The gas generators have metallic housing and an ignition means for igniting the gas-generating material therein (col. 1, lines 19-26). Fukabori et al. '062 teaches that the gas generators should be classified according to the primary metal of the housing (i.e. stainless steel or aluminum) and charged separately according to type of housing (col. 2, lines 58-62). The gas is ignited by heating to actuate the gas generators and completely burn the gas-generating agent prior to charging into a melting furnace (col. 4, lines 7-19). Gas generators are charged separately according to type of housing (col. 2, lines 58-62).

While Fukabori et al. '062 teaches that the metallic materials are recovered from the gas generators (col. 2, lines 30-34), it is silent with regard to the wire harness, and therefore does not teach cutting and removing said wiring harness at the root portion of the wiring harness.

Morey discloses a method for recovering and recycling metal and plastic from insulated wire. Wire is chopped or cut to length prior to separation from the insulation (col. 2 lines 18-34). Morey teaches that there is an economic benefit to recover both metals and plastic from wire (col. 2, lines 18-24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to remove the wiring harness from the gas generating agent of Fukabori et al. '062 and process the wiring harness according to the method of Morey, to benefit from the economic value of the recovered metal and plastic as taught by Morey. While Morey does not recite cutting and removing said wiring harness at the root portion of the wiring harness, one of ordinary skill in the art would be expected to separate the wire close to the inflator in order to

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recover the greatest amount of wire, thus receiving the greatest economic benefit from the recovered metal and plastic.

Fukabori '062 does not disclose that the temperature required for completely burning the gas-generating agent prior to charging into a melting furnace is not lower than 550 °C and not higher than 700 °C.

WO '641 discloses a method to recover inflators by heating the inflator to a temperature not lower than the operating temperature of the chemical (abstract) and teaches that the activation temperature of the chemical is normally from 300 to 600 °C (col. 2 lines 17-26 of Fukabori '352). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to heat to at least the normal operating temperature of the chemical (300 to 600 °C) as taught by WO '641 the inflators in Fukabori '062 in view of Morey since complete burning of the gas is desired in Fukabori '062 as discussed above. Further, the range of not lower than 300 to 600 °C overlaps the claimed range of not lower than 550 °C and not higher than 700 °C. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to heat to between 550 to 700 °C since WO '641 teaches heating to at least the operating range of the chemical and discloses that this is normally 300 to 600 °C.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 20 and 21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kathleen A. McNelis whose telephone number is 571 272 3554. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on 571-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KAM
03/12/2007



ROY KING
SUPERVISORY PATENT EX
10/12/2007

